

THE HEALING TOUCH



JOB IN HEALTHCARE

Hospitals might not be the most attractive places to spend time; nevertheless they are essential institutions in every society. Here, doctors save people's lives, treat the sick and deliver babies. The organization of hospitals and the hierarchy of different jobs can be complicated. This article will provide you with some basic hospital vocabulary.

Every hospital has two main parts: an **outpatient department** and an **inpatient department**. The outpatient department is usually on the ground floor of the main building or in a separate building. It contains **hospital records** and waiting rooms. The inpatient department, located in the main building, is composed of **wards** or units where patients **are admitted for treatment**. A ward usually consists of rooms for patients, a **day room**, an **admission room**, a treatment room, sister's room, small laboratory, and bathrooms.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONS

Patients are usually sent to the hospital by their general practitioner or family doctor. If they must stay in the hospital for further treatment, they become inpatients in one of the many hospital wards. Each ward falls under the responsibility of a **ward sister**. A ward sister is a senior position for a registered, experienced nurse with three years of training. Staff nurses, the first post

for all newly qualified registered nurses, assist the ward sister. The rest of the nursing staff is made up of untrained nursing assistants called auxiliary or practical nurses. The ward sister is responsible for their training. They learn things such as bed-making, washing patients, **bedpan rounds**, giving medicine and managing transfusions.

There may be over twenty wards or units in a typical hospital. Each of these falls under the supervision of a **head physician** who is usually a consultant, a specialist in their field. In addition, the various wards will have trainee doctors or interns working at the hospital to get further practical experience, as well as registrars or residents, doctors who already have experience in their chosen speciality.

Technologists and technicians play important roles in assisting doctors **to make correct diagnoses** and perform certain therapies. For example, an **occupational therapist** will help you get better after an illness or injury by giving you special

activities. Laboratory technicians get to examine various samples taken from patients – everything from blood to **stools**.

HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS

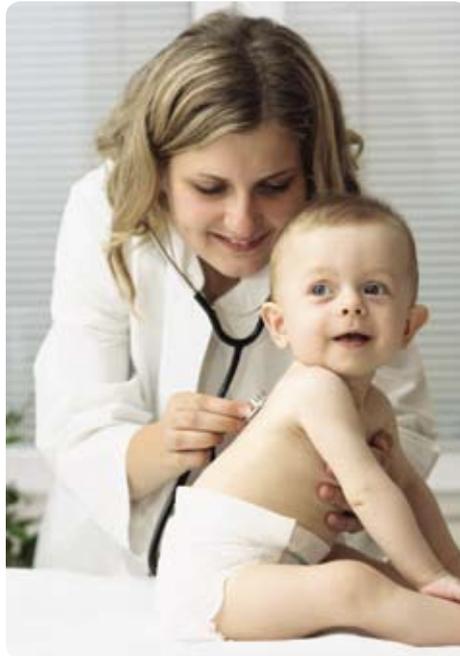
Surgery is the branch of medicine that treats disease or injury by **operative measures**.

The doctor performing the operation is known as a surgeon. Operations are classified as **emergency, essential and elective**.

Hospitals have emergency departments where operations must take place with minimal delay in order to save patients' lives. Examples are **appendicitis** and motor car accidents. Essential operations are performed **to remove a threat to the life** of the patient, but an operation does not have to take place immediately. Elective operations are those which the patient has chosen to have to improve their comfort or health. A hospital may have a plastic surgery unit for cosmetic operations. Operations take place in an

operating theatre where everything must be hygienic, counted and checked. Operating theatre staff must be fit and well – at the first sign of an infection they are excluded from duty. General **anaesthetics** are given for surgical procedures to **depress the patient's central nervous system**. They are **administered by** an anaesthetist. Following a serious operation, most patients will be placed in the hospital's **intensive care unit** (ICU) where specially trained personnel provide immediate and **continuous** treatment and monitoring.

Oncology is the scientific study of **tumours**, which takes up much of an



oncologist's time. Many hospitals have a cancer centre to take care of such patients. Cancer is particularly dangerous because **malignant cells** are able to **metastasize** (spread) throughout the body **by way of the bloodstream or lymphatic vessels**. **Pathologists** examine cancer cells under a microscope to grade them. Possible treatment may include a trip to **radiology** where a radiologist will administer the **optimal dose of ionizing radiation** to destroy the tumour.

If you have problems with your bones, you may be sent to visit a bone doctor or **orthopaedist** at the hospital's orthopaedic services unit. The word "orthopaedics"

is taken from "ortho" meaning straight and "pedo" meaning child because it was originally intended to cover only **childhood disorders** but now includes bone problems at all ages. Other important hospital wards include **cardiology** where a cardiologist will examine you if you have problems with your heart, **gastroenterology** if you have problems with your stomach or intestines, including perhaps a consultation with a **dietician** who has extensive knowledge of the basic foods, or **paediatrics** to see a paediatrician who is concerned with the care and development of children and the treatment of diseases that affect them. Many hospitals also have OB/GYN wards with specialized doctors called **gynaecologists** who deal with disorders of the female reproductive system and **obstetricians** who deal with the birth of children.

Hospitals tend to be very large, confusing and even **daunting** places, but they are filled with highly trained professionals who are there to take care of us when we are not well. As a career, working in a hospital may be stressful and exhausting at times, but it is also an exciting and responsible job that provides you with the opportunity to help others and save peoples' lives.

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What do the following doctors specialize in: a urologist and an E-N-T doctor?

Solution on p. 3

VOCABULARY

to treat [tri:t] - léčit
outpatient department [aʊtpeɪʃ(ə)nt dɪ'pɑ:t(mə)nt] - ambulance
inpatient department - nemocniční oddělení
hospital records ['rɛkɔ:dz] - nemocniční záznamy
ward [wɔ:d] - oddělení
are admitted for treatment ['tri:t(mə)nt] - jsou přijati k léčení
day room - společenská místnost
admission room - příjem
ward sister - staniční sestra
bedpan rounds [bedpæn raʊndz] - obcházení pacientů s ložní mísou
head physician [fi'ziʃ(ə)n] - primář
make correct diagnoses ['daɪəgnəʊzɪz] - správně diagnostikují, určují správné diagnózy
occupational therapist - pracovní terapeut, ergoterapeut
stool [stʊ:l] - stolice
surgery ['sɜ:dʒ(ə)rɪ] - chirurgie
operative measure ['ɒp(ə)rətɪv 'meʒə] - operační zákrok

emergency, essential and elective [ɪ'mɜ:dʒ(ə)nsɪ ɪ'senʃ(ə)l ɪ'lektɪv] - naléhavé, základní a výběrové (elektivní)
appendicitis [əpendɪ'saɪtɪs] - záňět slepého střeva
to remove a threat to life [ri'mu:v θret] - odstranit něco, co ohrožuje život
operating theatre ['ɒpəreɪtɪŋ 'θiətə] - operační sál
anaesthetics [ænis'θetɪks] - anestetika
to depress the patient's central nervous system [dɪ'pres] - snížit činnost pacientovy nervové soustavy
are administered by [əd'mɪnɪstəd] - jsou podávány
intensive care unit - jednotka intenzivní péče
continuous - nepřetržitý
oncology [ɒŋ'kɒlədʒɪ] - onkologie
tumour ['tju:mə] - nádor
malignant cells [mə'lɪgnənt selz] - zhoubné buňky
metastasize [mɪ'tæstəsaɪz] - metastázovat
by the way of bloodstream and lymphatic vessels [bɪ'laɪdstrɪ:m lɪm'fætɪk 'ves(ə)lz] - krevním oběhem a lymfatickými cévami
pathologist [pə'θɒlədʒɪst] - patolog

radiology [reɪdɪ'blɒdʒɪ] - radiologie
optimal dose of ionizing radiation [ɒptɪm(ə)l dəʊz 'aɪənəɪzɪŋ reɪdɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n] - optimální dávka ionizačního záření
orthopaedist [ɔ:θə'pi:di:st] - ortopéd u dětí
cardiology [kɑ:drɪ'blɒdʒɪ] - kardiologie
gastroenterology [gæstrəʊɛntə'rɒlədʒɪ] - gastroenterologie
dietician [daɪə'tiʃ(ə)n] - dietetik
paediatrics [pi:drɪ'ætrɪks] - pediatrie
gynaecologist [gɪnæ'kɒlədʒɪst] - gynekolog
obstetrician [ɒbstə'trɪʃ(ə)n] - porodník
daunting [dɔ:ntɪŋ] - skličující

GLOSSARY

head physician - a head of a particular ward
registrar (BrE) - a doctor working in a British hospital who is training to become a specialist in a particular area of medicine
resident (AmE) - a doctor working in a hospital in the US who is receiving special advanced training

intern or interne (AmE) - an advanced student of medicine, whose training is nearly finished, or a graduate who is working in a hospital to get further practical experience
trainee doctor (BrE) - a medical student working in a hospital under supervision of a senior doctor in order to increase one's qualifications
ward sister (BrE) - a senior nurse who is in charge of a hospital ward; this medical term uses the word "sister" instead of a "nurse"
registered nurse (AmE) - a nurse who has a degree in nursing and who has passed an exam to be allowed to work in a particular state (BrE) a nurse who has an official qualification (SRN = State Registered Nurse)
staff nurse (BrE) - a qualified hospital nurse
practical nurse (AmE) - a nurse with practical experience but less training than a registered nurse